

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 147

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 78

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 147—Relative to child passenger safety.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 25, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 147, Murray. Child passenger safety.

This measure would encourage the judiciary, law enforcement, the public health and health care communities, passenger safety specialists, and child advocates to continue their diligent efforts to ensure the safety of California's children through enforcement and public education of our child passenger restraint laws and effective passenger safety practices.

WHEREAS, Automobile collisions in the United States are the leading cause of unintentional injury deaths for children under 16 years of age, accounting for 40 percent of all unintentional injury deaths and taking the lives of 195 California youngsters under 16 years of age annually; and

WHEREAS, Local and statewide public education efforts have proven successful in increasing child safety seat compliance to an all-time high of 89.6 percent; and

WHEREAS, Research indicates that four out of five child safety seats are used incorrectly; and

WHEREAS, Continued efforts must be supported to inform parents of the most effective passenger safety practices, such as having children ride in the back seat of the vehicle because it is the safest place for children of any age to ride, especially those 12 years of age and under; and

WHEREAS, Seventy-one percent of the deaths and 66 percent of the injuries in motor vehicle collisions could be eliminated if every infant and toddler were in an appropriate child safety seat on every ride; and

WHEREAS, While many educational and enforcement efforts target the proper restraints for infant and toddler passengers, increased efforts must also target the proper restraints for children passengers, 4 through 15 years of age who are still at great risk; and

WHEREAS, The California Coalition for Children's Safety and Health, funded by contributions from the Association of California Life Insurance Companies, the American Council of Life Insurance, Health Net, Pacific Life, State Farm Insurance Companies, and the United Services Automobile Association (USAA), have cosponsored

with the Assembly Transportation Committee, an informational hearing on child passenger safety to increase awareness of this important public health issue; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California encourages the judiciary, law enforcement, the public health and health care communities, passenger safety specialists, and child advocates to continue their diligent efforts to ensure the safety of California's children through enforcement and public education of our child passenger restraint laws and effective passenger safety practices; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

